Disinvestment targets

*297. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the disinvestment targets of Government for the next two years;

(b) whether Government are considering to offload equity of blue-chip PSUs like NTPC, Power Grid Corporation, Public Sector Banks through Initial Public offerings during the next two years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Government has decided, in principle, to list large, profitable Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) on domestic stock exchanges and to selectively sell a minority stake in listed, profitable PSEs while retaining atleast 51% of the shares alongwith full management control so as not to alter the Public Sector character of the companies. No decision has, however, been taken so far for disinvestment of any specific Public Sector Enterprise. The disinvestment programme over the next two years will be designed to take into account the capital requirements of the PSEs market conditions and all other relevant considerations. All decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis to optimize the Government's realisation from disinvestment.

In the case of Public Sector Banks, decisions regarding raising of equity through Public Issue are taken by their respective Boards. The Banking Companies (Transfer and Acquisition of Undertakings) Act, 1970 does not allow disinvestment of Government equity in nationalised Banks, though Return of Equity is permissible, but it has to be ensured that Government equity does not come down below 51%.

Promotion of tourism in Assam

*298. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the tourism industry of Assam being in a poor state;